



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
RICHARD A. LEOPOLD, DIRECTOR

June 17, 2008

TO: Cedar Rapids and Linn County Solid Waste Managers
Cedar Rapids City Council
Linn County Board of Supervisors

FR: Richard A. Leopold, Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

RE: Authorization for Catastrophic Event – Operational Procedure for the Debris Disposal of Flood-Related Waste in Cedar Rapids and Linn County.

This operational procedure specifically addresses flood-related waste disposal in Cedar Rapids and Linn County.

The Iowa DNR recognizes the extraordinary circumstances associated with the recent flooding of the City of Cedar Rapids and Linn County and its communities, and the challenges this poses to efficient and environmentally-sound waste management.

In an effort to provide for the protection of public health through the prompt and safe disposal of waste contaminated by flood waters, the department hereby authorizes the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency to open the previously-closed landfill in downtown Cedar Rapids (Site #1). We understand this disposal option is in proximity to residential areas, downtown buildings and businesses that received considerable damage from flooding, and provides a convenient location for staging and disposal. We also understand that Site #1 closed in October of 2007 with remaining disposal capacity able to accommodate the anticipated flood debris.

The use of Site #1 for the disposal of flood debris is subject to the following procedures, unless otherwise authorized by the Department or Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management:

1. The disposal of residential waste, including construction and demolition debris from residences, and sand at Site #1, according to the Site Development and Operations Plan agreed to by the Iowa DNR and the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency.
2. Source-separated industrial waste suitable for gasification shall be directed to the BFC facility, to the extent possible. This facility can dispose of approximately 100 tons per day of material. Limited stockpiling of source-separated industrial waste may occur at the location indicated by the owner and agreed to by the Iowa DNR (identified within approximately two city blocks of the BFC facility); however,

given that this site is located within proximity to a residential area, waste material cannot be stockpiled longer than one week and the stockpile must be managed to control vermin and vectors, odor, seepage and run-off.

3. Household hazardous waste may be collected at a temporary location at Site #1 for recycling, management and disposal through a permitted contractor.
4. Open burning and collecting yard waste according to the following general terms:
 - Composting is preferred over burning trees, leaves and other vegetative material in Linn County.
 - Local officials are encouraged to contact Iowa DNR Field Offices for assistance prior to burning yard waste.
 - The burn site shall be operated by a local governmental entity or solid waste agency.
 - Access is controlled to the site. Local officials may use their discretion in determining whether the site needs to be fenced.
 - Burning is supervised at all times.
 - Burning is conducted only when weather conditions are favorable with respect to protection of surrounding property.
 - Tires must be removed from the debris and shall not be used to ignite the fire.
 - The burning site is limited to areas at least one-quarter mile from any inhabited building. If the one-quarter mile separation distance can not be met, the owner of a building may provide a written waiver in the form of an affidavit to the department and to the local governmental entity. There is no requirement that the affidavit be filed with the county recorder.
 - Multiple burns of smaller piles are preferable over one large burn pile. Burning should be conducted so that each burn is completed each day. The purpose of this guideline is to prevent large piles of smoking debris for days, weeks, or months.
 - Burning asbestos containing material is prohibited.
5. Appliances, white goods, electronic waste and other similar items shall be directed to a permitted recycler.

- Removing and separating asbestos-containing material and materials suspected of containing asbestos. These materials shall be wetted down and disposed at a sanitary disposal project. Burning asbestos containing material is prohibited.
6. Partially destroyed public/commercial buildings can be demolished after asbestos materials are removed by abatement contractors. If the building is unsafe for abatement contractors the building is considered to be destroyed and assumed to contain asbestos. An asbestos abatement contractor must be present during demolition and disposal.

Guidance regarding the disposal of other types of flood-related waste will be provided by the department upon request. All regular waste disposal activities for areas of the city not impacted by or with minimal impact from the flooding should continue to be managed at the Site #2 landfill.

This operational procedure is in effect for 90 days from the day of issuance. After 90 days, the Iowa DNR, in conjunction with Cedar Rapids and Linn County officials, shall review local conditions and revise and reissue this authorization as necessary.

Please feel free to contact the Iowa DNR for assistance.

Richard Leopold
Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Patrick Hall
State Coordinating Officer
Iowa Homeland Security Emergency
Management